

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 16. Please cancel claim 17.

1. (Currently Amended) A biologically pure bacterial strain for bioremediation of petroleum hydrocarbons comprising ~~an isolate~~ said strain selected from the group consisting of ATCC accession numbers Flexibacter cf. sancti srs, PTA-5570[.]; Pseudomonas fredriksbergensis srs, PTA-5571[.]; Staphylococcus warneri. lmg 19417 srs, PTA-5572[.]; Sphingomonas srs, PTA-5573[.]; Sphingomonas sp. s37 srs, PTA-5574[.]; Phylobacterium srs, PTA-5575[.]; Serratia ficaria srs, PTA-5576[.]; Agrobacterium tumefaciens srs, PTA-5577[.]; Rhizobium sp. sdw045 srs, PTA-5578[.]; Ralstonia pickettii srs, PTA-5579[.]; Alcaligenes-piechaudii srs, PTA-5580[.]; and Pseudomonas-putida biotype b srs, PTA-5581 and combinations thereof.

2-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A biologically pure ~~culture of one or more~~ organisms, strain and mutants thereof, having all of the identifying characteristics of said ~~microorganisms~~ strain, wherein said microorganisms from said strain are capable of degrading petroleum hydrocarbons, said microorganisms being selected from the group consisting of ATCC accession numbers Flexibacter cf. sancti srs, PTA-5570[.]; Pseudomonas fredriksbergensis srs, PTA-5571[.]; Staphylococcus warneri. lmg 19417 srs, PTA-5572[.]; Sphingomonas srs, PTA-5573[.]; Sphingomonas sp. s37 srs, PTA-5574[.]; Phylobacterium srs, PTA-5575[.]; Serratia ficaria srs, PTA-5576[.]; Agrobacterium tumefaciens srs, PTA-5577[.]; Rhizobium sp. sdw045 srs, PTA-5578[.]; Ralstonia pickettii srs, PTA-5579[.]; Alcaligenes-piechaudii srs, PTA-5580[.]; and Pseudomonas-putida biotype b srs, PTA-5581 and mixtures thereof.

17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) A biologically pure culture according to claim 16 wherein said hydrocarbon is a polyaromatic hydrocarbon.